Patent

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Serial No.: 09/461,625
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT	:	John I. GARNEY et al. Confirmation No. 4071
SERIAL NO.	:	09/461,625
FILED	:	December 14, 1999
FOR	:	TRACKING TRANSACTION STATUS FOR A BUS SYSTEM PROVIDING LEGACY BUS COMPATIBILITY
GROUP ART UNIT	:	2665
EXAMINER	:	Justin M. PHILPOTT

M/S: APPEAL BRIEFS - PATENTS
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CERTIFICATION OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION
I hereby certify that this Appeal Brief is being facsimile transmitted to the Patent and Trademark Office (Fax No. (571) 273-8300) on November 21, 2005.
Thea Wagner

APPEAL BRIEF

Dear Sir:

This brief is in furtherance of the Notice of Appeal, filed in this case on August 23, 2005.

1. REAL PARTY IN INTEREST

The real party in interest in this matter is Intel Corporation. (Recorded December 14, 1999, Reel/Frame 010481/0611).

2. RELATED APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

There are no related appeals.

3. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

Claims 2-21, 23-31, and 33-44 are pending in the application. Reconsideration in view the following remarks is respectfully requested. Claims 2-4, 23-25, 33-35, and 42-44 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No.6,600,739, to Evans et al. ("Evans"). Claims 5-21, 26-31 and 36-41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Evans in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,832,494 to Wooten.

4. STATUS OF AMENDMENTS

Applicants did not make any amendments to the claim subsequent to final rejection. The claims listed on page 1 of the Appendix attached to this Appeal Brief reflect the present status of the claims (including amendments entered after final rejection).

5. SUMMARY OF THE CLAIMED SUBJECT MATTER

The embodiment of claim 11 generally describes a method for communicating data between a host and an agent, the method comprising: receiving at a host controller (e.g., *see* page 8, line 24 – Figure 1a, 110) from an agent a request to perform transactions periodically with a first period (e.g., *see* page 8, line 25-page 9, line 6); generating a frame template (e.g., *see* page 18, line 20-22) including a first transaction to be performed between the host controller and a hub(e.g., *see* page 17, line 8-14, *also see* Figure 1, 120); and performing periodically the first

transaction of the frame template with a second period that is less than or equal to half of the first period (e.g., *see* page 17, line 14-18).

The embodiment of claim 16 generally describes a method for communicating data between a host and an agent, the method comprising: receiving at a host controller (e.g., *see* page 8, line 24 – Figure 1a, 110) from an agent a request to perform transactions periodically with a first period (e.g., *see* page 8, line 25-page 9, line 6); generating a first frame template and a second frame template (e.g., *see* page 18, line 20-22) each including a first transaction to be performed between the host controller and a hub (e.g., *see* page 17, line 9-14, *also see* Figure 1, 120); performing periodically with the first period the first transaction from the first frame template (e.g., *see* page 18, lines 4-9); and performing periodically with the first period the first transaction from the second frame template such that the first transaction from the first template and the first transaction from the second frame template (e.g., *see* page 20, lines 11-12) are displaced in time by an interval (e.g., *see* page 17, line 14-16).

The embodiment of claim 42 generally describes a method for communicating data between a host and an agent, the method comprising: performing a first transaction at a first time between a host controller and a hub (e.g., *see* page 17, line 6-9, *also see* Figure 1, 120), said first transaction initiated by said host controller; performing a second transaction between the hub and an agent based on the first transaction at the first time (e.g., *see* page 17, line 9-14); and repeating, by the host controller, the first transaction at a second time between the host controller and the hub (e.g., *see* page 17, line 14-18).

The embodiment of claim 43 generally describes a digital system comprising: a host controller; a device driver adapted to operate the host controller to initiate and perform a first transaction at a first time between the host controller and a hub (e.g., *see* page 17, line 6-9, *also*

see Figure 1, 120) and to initiate and repeat the first transaction at a second time between the host controller and the hub (e.g., *see* page 17, line 14-18); wherein the hub is adapted to perform a second transaction with an agent based upon the first transaction at the first time (e.g., *see* page 17, line 9-14); and wherein the first transaction at the second time is repeated after the second transaction (e.g., *see* page 17, line 9-14).

The embodiment of claim 44 generally describes a digital system comprising: a first hub controller (e.g., *see* page 28, line 5, Figure 9, 118) adapted to initiate and perform a first transaction at a first time with a host controller (e.g., *see* page 17, line 6-9) and to initiate and perform the first transaction at a second time with the host controller (e.g., *see* page 17, line 14-18); a second hub controller coupled to the first hub controller and adapted to perform a second transaction with an agent based upon the first transaction at the first time (e.g., *see* page 17, line 9-14); and wherein the first transaction at the second time is performed after the second transaction (e.g., *see* page 17, line 14-16).

Figure 1a illustrates a block diagram of a bus using a protocol in accordance with the present invention. Bus 100 includes a system 102 having a host controller 110 which is coupled to hub 120 which is in turn coupled to legacy peripheral 130 and advanced peripheral 135. Host controller 110 has an associated device driver 105 that executes on system 102. Examples of peripherals (advanced and legacy) include cameras, compact disc players, speakers, microphones, video display devices, scanners, and joy-sticks and mice, among other devices. System 102 can include any digital system capable of digital communication, especially laptop computers, desktop computers, servers, set-top boxes, entertainment systems, and game machines. Consequently, embodiments of this invention can be practiced with a variety of digital devices using digital communication.

Figure 1b illustrates a process 150 showing a method in accordance with this invention for communicating with a peripheral having a lower data rate, than the data rate of a host controller. The peripheral may also have a different protocol than the host controller. Process 150 can be used to effect a variety of information transfers between host controller 110 and peripheral 130. At block 152 in process 150 an advanced transaction is performed. An advanced transaction herein refers to a transaction that host 110 would use with peripheral 135 directly or via a high data rate repeater (not shown) in hub 120. At block 154a, hub 120 performs a hub-peripheral transaction with peripheral 130 based on some of the buffered outbound data. At block 154b, while hub 120 is performing the classic transaction, host 110 performs at least one transaction with one or more peripherals or hubs. A benefit of the repeated transaction protocol (or repeat protocol) described above is that it allows controller 110 to initiate communication (block 152) with peripheral 130, engage in another function, or engage in another communication (block 154b) with another peripheral (low data rate or high data rate peripheral) while hub 120 communicates with peripheral 130, and then return to complete the communication (156) that was initiated earlier with low data rate peripheral 130. By communicating using repeated transactions, controller 110 communicates at a high data rate without speed-shifting and does not sit idle while waiting for hub 120 to communicate with peripheral 130.

Figure 1c illustrates in greater detail process 152 showing an advanced transaction for a interrupt out transfer in accordance with an embodiment of this invention. At step 152a a token packet including hub identification information, peripheral and endpoint identification information, transfer type, indicator for specifying direction of transfer (in or out), and data rate identification is sent from host controller 110 to hub 120.

Figure 1d illustrates in greater detail repeat advanced transaction 156 for an interrupt out transfer in accordance with an embodiment of this invention. At step 156a, the token packet described above in connection with block 152a is sent again from host 110 to hub 120. At block 156b, the data packet described above in connection with block 152b is sent again from host 110 to hub 120. At step 156c, a handshake is received by host controller 110 from hub 120, where the handshake can either (1) include handshake information received by hub 120 from peripheral 130 (classic handshake information) during the classic transaction described above in connection with **Figure 1b** or 2 indicate that hub 120 does not yet have information based on the classic transaction to forward to host controller 110 (*e.g.*, the classic transaction has not yet been completed).

Figures 3a and **3b** illustrate state machine diagrams for a host controller and a hub, respectively, performing another transfer in accordance with this invention, specifically an inbound bulk, control, or interrupt transfer.

Figures 4a and **4b** illustrate state machine diagrams for a host controller and a hub, respectively, performing another transfer in accordance with this invention, specifically an outbound isochronous transfer.

Figures 5a and **5b** illustrate state machine diagrams for a host controller and a hub, respectively, performing another transfer in accordance with this invention, specifically an inbound isochronous transfer. Process 500 and process 560 show the state machine for a host controller and a hub, respectively. Process 500 includes a token phase (IN) which is not repeated. In response to IN, process 560 will return data to the host controller.

Figure 6 illustrates a diagram 600 showing transactions on a bus in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention. Diagram 600 illustrates a brief sample of activity on bus 100 due to a legacy endpoint which requires a data transfer every four frames.

Figure 7 illustrates a diagram 700 showing transactions on a bus in an embodiment of the present invention. Diagram 700 illustrates a brief sample of activity on bus 100 due to a legacy endpoint which requires a data transfer every four frames.

Tracking of repeat transactions in the hub will be described by referring to **Figure 8** which illustrates in greater detail hub 120 in an embodiment in accordance with the present invention. Synchronization of hub 120 will be described by referring to **Figure 9** which illustrates a memory including data structures used for repeat transaction tracking and processing for an embodiment in accordance with the present invention.

Tracking of repeat transactions will now be described by referring to **Figure 10a** that illustrates a flowchart of a process 200 for initializing state indicators in a hub in an embodiment in accordance with the present invention. **Figure 10b** which illustrates a process 210 for tracking transactions for an embodiment in accordance with the present invention. After controller 181 performs classic transactions with peripheral 130, controller 181 updates the following state indicators: handshake_N and completeN. **Figure 10c** illustrates a process 230 for updating state indicators for an embodiment in accordance with the present invention.

6. GROUNDS OF REJECTION TO BE REVIEWED ON APPEAL

A. Are claims 2-4, 23-25, 33-35, and 42-44, rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e), anticipated by U.S. Patent No.6,600,739, to Evans et al. ("Evans")?

B. Are claims 5-21, 26-31 and 36-41, rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), unpatentable over Evans in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,832,494 to Wooten ("Wooten")?

7. ARGUMENT

A. Claims 2-4, 23-25, 33-35, and 42-44 are not anticipated by U.S. Patent No.6,600,739, to Evans et al. ("Evans")

Applicants respectfully submit that the Evans reference does not teach, suggest or disclose at least: "[a] digital system comprising: *a first hub controller adapted to initiate and perform a first transaction at a first time with a host controller* and to initiate and perform the first transaction at a second time with the host controller ..."(e.g. as described in the embodiment of claim 44).

The Examiner cites column 3 lines 35-45 of Evans, asserting the section allegedly discloses a first hub controller (211 controlling hubs 207 & 209) having a device driver (within CPU 230) adapted to initiate and perform a first transaction at a first time with a host controller (enabling USB function 215/217 to be coupled to host controller 205 according to select signal 223). The Examiner further states that even if the select signal 223 may be generated by host controller 223, it is the device 211 which is adapted to initiate and perform the transaction of USB function 215/217 to be coupled to host controller 205, since it is device 211 which directly couples USB function 215 to the rest of the system.

Applicants respectfully disagree. Column 3 lines 35-45 state:

> During operation, assume that USB host controller 205 controls USB functions 215 and 217. In this example, USB host controller 205 may be considered the primary host device and USB host controller 203 may be considered the secondary host device. *As such, USB host controller 203 generates a select signal 223 via CPU 230 to enable USB functions 215 and 217 to be coupled to USB host controller 205 through the "1" upstream ports of selection devices 211 and 213.* Therefore, USB functions 215 and 217 may communicate with one another through USB host controller 205. (*emphasis added)*

Applicants assert that the Evans reference specifically recites *it is the host controller 203 that generates a signal 223* that enables USB function 215 and 217 to be coupled to USB host controller 205. Contrary to the Examiner's assertion, it is *not* the selection device 211, nor even the USB hub 207 or 209. The emphasized section clearly states and indicates that the process of assuming USB control is initiated by the USB host controller. Moreover, again contrary to the Examiner's assertion, Applicants further cite column 3, line 18-20 which describes an embodiment where "...*CPU 230* generates a select signal 223 coupled to selection devices 211 and 213".

In contrast, in the embodiment of claim 44, it is the first *hub controller* that is adapted to initiate and perform a first transaction with a host controller. Such limitations are not reflected anywhere in Evans.

With regards to the Examiner's assertion that the device 211 is adapted to initiate and perform the transaction of USB function 215/217 to be coupled to host controller 205 simply because device 211 directly couples USB function 215 to the rest of the system, Applicants assert this interpretation is unsupported and contrary to the teachings of Evans. As argued above, the cited section of Evans along with an examination of Figure 2 clearly teach that it is the USB host controller, also "coupled" to the USB function 215, that initiates the USB function. *See* column 3, lines 40-41. A standard reading of the cited section of Evans as a whole also indicates that the function of generating the select signal is initiated by the host controller.

Applicants submit the Evans reference does not specifically disclose selection devices 211 and 213 generating the select signal 223 simply because they are "coupled" anywhere in its disclosure. Therefore, the Examiner's argument with regard to the selection devices is

unsupported, contrary to the teachings of the reference and improper as serving the basis of a proper 35 U.S.C. §102(e) rejection.

In the Advisory Action, despite the arguments made above, the Examiner again argues that it is device 211 which is adapted to "initiate and perform" the transaction of USB function 215/217 to be coupled to host controller 205, merely because these selection devices couple USB function 215 to the rest of the system. For the reasons described above, Applicants maintain their disagreement. Applicants note the Examiner's invitation to amend to clarify the terms "initiate and perform", but further maintain there is no need to clarify the terms as described in embodiments of the present invention, as they are clear on their face and are not reflected in the Evans reference.

Wooten fails to make up for the deficiencies of Evans. Wooten is directed towards managing scheduled transfers, specifically a method of linking lists of scheduled transfers. In Wooten, the host controller is primarily directed to set up lists of transactions for the host controller to operate on during serial bus frame intervals. There is, however, no disclosure of a first hub controller adapted to initiate and perform a first transaction at a first time with a host controller as specifically recited in the embodiment of claim 44.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that since each and every element is not taught, suggested or disclosed by the cited reference, the 102(e) rejection of independent claim 44 is lacking and should be withdrawn. Dependant claims 33-41 are allowable as they depend from allowable claim 44.

Moreover, Applicants respectfully submit that nowhere does the Evans reference teach, suggest or disclose "[a] method for communicating data between a host and an agent, the method comprising: *performing* a first transaction at a first time *between a host controller and a hub,*

said first transaction initiated by said host controller ..." (e.g., as recited in the embodiment of claim 42).

Again, the Examiner cites column 3 lines 35-45 of Evans asserting that Evans teaches a first hub controller having a device driver adapted to initiate and perform a first transaction at a first time with a host controller.

> Applicants respectfully disagree. Column 3 lines 35-45 of Evans state:
> During operation, assume that USB host controller 205 controls USB functions 215 and 217. In this example, USB host controller 205 may be considered the primary host device and USB host controller 203 may be considered the secondary host device. *As such, USB host controller 203 generates a select signal 223 via CPU 230 to enable USB functions 215 and 217 to be coupled to USB host controller 205 through the "1" upstream ports of selection devices 211 and 213.* Therefore, USB functions 215 and 217 may communicate with one another through USB host controller 205. *(emphasis added)*

Applicants maintain the cited section Evans discloses transactions taking place between host controller 203 and host controller 205, not a hub as recited in Applicant's claims. Unlike the embodiment of claim 42, which describes performing a first transaction at a first time between a host controller and a hub, the Evans reference specifically states that *USB host controller 203* generates a select signal... to be coupled *to host controller 205*. Evans does not teach a transaction taking place between the host controller and hub. The Examiner's alleged equivalents of the hub, elements 207 and 209 (as maintained by the Office action) are not mentioned anywhere in the cited section as being party of this transaction. Therefore, Wooten fails to disclose at least this limitation as well.

Applicants respectfully submit that each and every element is not taught, suggested or disclosed by the cited reference, and therefore the 102(e) rejection of claim 42 is lacking and should be withdrawn. Independent claims 11, 16 and 43 includes substantively similar

limitations and therefore should be allowed for the same reasons. Claims 2-10, 12-15, 17-21, and 23-31 depend from allowable independent claims, and therefore should be allowed as well.

B. Claims 5-21, 26-31 and 36-41 are not rendered obvious by Evans in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,832,494 to Wooten

Applicant respectfully submits, claims 5-10, 12-15, 17-21, 26-31 and 36-41 are allowable as depending from an allowable independent base claims (see above).

Conclusion

For at least these reasons, the Claims 1-19 are believed to be patentable over the cited references, individually and in combination. Withdrawal of the rejections is, therefore, respectfully requested.

Appellants therefore respectfully request that the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences reverse the Examiner's decision rejecting claims 1-19 and direct the Examiner to pass the case to issue.

Serial No. 09/461,625
Appeal Brief Under 37 CFR 41.37 Filed November 21, 2005
Advisory Action dated September 14, 2005

The Examiner is hereby authorized to charge the appeal brief fee of **$500.00** and any additional fees which may be necessary for consideration of this paper to Kenyon & Kenyon Deposit Account No. **11-0600**.

Respectfully submitted,

KENYON & KENYON

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APPENDIX

(Brief of Appellants John I. Garney et al.
U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/461,625)

8. CLAIMS ON APPEAL

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 42, wherein the first transaction at the first time and the first transaction at the second time are performed at a first communication speed or in accordance with a first protocol.

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 42, wherein the second transaction is performed at a second communication speed or in accordance with a second protocol.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 42, further comprising performing a third transaction between the first transaction at the first time and the first transaction at the second time.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 42, wherein performing the first transaction at the first time includes,

sending from the host controller to the hub a first token packet including agent identification information and a transfer indicator indicating that data needs to be transferred between the host controller and the hub, and

transferring a data packet between the host controller and the hub.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein performing the first transaction at the first time includes the processing by the host controller at least one of an acknowledgment, a handshake indication, or a timeout indication.

7. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein transferring the data packet between the host controller and the hub includes sending the data packet from the host controller to the hub.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 42, wherein performing the first transaction at the second time includes,

sending from the host controller to the hub a first token packet including agent identification information and a transfer indicator indicating that data needs to be transferred between the host controller and the hub, and

transferring a data packet between the host controller and the hub.

9. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein performing the first transaction at the second time includes processing by the host controller at least one of an acknowledgment, a handshake indication, or a timeout indication.

10. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein transferring the data packet between the host controller and the hub includes sending the data packet from the hub to the host controller.

11. (Original) A method for communicating data between a host and an agent, the method comprising: receiving at a host controller from an agent a request to perform transactions periodically with a first period;

generating a frame template including a first transaction to be performed between the host controller and a hub; and

performing periodically the first transaction of the frame template with a second period that is less than or equal to half of the first period.

12. (Original) The method of claim 11 wherein the template period is greater than a duration of one frame.

13. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein the template period is less than a duration of one frame.

14. (Original) The method of claim 11, further comprising performing periodically with the first period a second transaction between the hub and the agent.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein the periodically performed second transaction transfers information between the agent and the hub, and the periodically performed first transaction transfers the information between the host controller and the hub.

16. (Original) A method for communicating data between a host and an agent, the method comprising:

receiving at a host controller from an agent a request to perform transactions periodically with a first period;

generating a first frame template and a second frame template each including a first transaction to be performed between the host controller and a hub;

performing periodically with the first period the first transaction from the first frame template; and

performing periodically with the first period the first transaction from the second frame template such that the first transaction from the first template and the first transaction from the second frame template are displaced in time by an interval.

17. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein the first period is greater than or equal to a duration of one frame.

18. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein the interval is less than a duration of one frame.

19. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein the interval is greater than a duration of one frame.

20. (Original) The method of claim 16, further comprising:

performing periodically with the first period a second transaction between the hub and an agent;

wherein the periodically performed second transaction transfers data from the agent to the hub; and

wherein the periodically performed first transaction from the second template transfers the data from the hub to the host controller.

21. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein the periodically performed first transaction from the first template transfers data from the host controller to the hub, further comprising:

performing periodically with the first period a second transaction between the hub and an agent; and

wherein the periodically performed second transaction transfers the data from the hub to the agent.

22. (Cancelled)

23. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 43, wherein the first transaction at the first time and the first transaction at the second time may be performed at a first communication speed or in accordance with a first protocol.

24. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 43, wherein the second transaction may be performed at a second communication speed or in accordance with a second protocol.

25. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 43, wherein the host controller is adapted to perform a third transaction between the first transaction at the first time and the first transaction at the second time.

26. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 43, wherein the host controller is adapted to send, during the first transaction at the first time, a first packet including agent identification information and a transfer indicator indicating that data needs to be transferred between the host controller and the hub, and to transfer, during the first transaction at the first time, a data packet between the host controller and the hub.

27. (Original) The system of claim 26, wherein the host controller is adapted to process, during the first transaction at the first time, at least one of an acknowledgment, a handshake indication, or a timeout indication.

28. (Original) The system of claim 26, wherein the data packet may be transferred from the host controller to the hub.

29. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 43, wherein the host controller is adapted to send to the hub, during the first transaction at the second time, a first packet including agent identification information and a transfer indicator indicating that data needs to be transferred between the hub and host controller, and to transfer, during the first transaction at the second time, a data packet between the host controller and the hub.

30. (Original) The system of claim 29, wherein the host controller is adapted to process, during the first transaction at the second time, at least one of an acknowledgment, a handshake indication, or a timeout indication.

31. (Original) The system of claim 29, wherein the data packet may be transferred from the hub to the host controller.

32. (Cancelled)

33. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 44, wherein the first transaction at the first time and the first transaction at the second time may be performed at a first communication speed or in accordance with a first protocol.

34. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 44, wherein the second transaction may be performed at a second communication speed or in accordance with a second protocol.

35. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 44, wherein the first hub controller is further adapted to perform a third transaction between the first transaction at the first time and the first transaction at the second time.

36. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 44, wherein the first hub controller is adapted to receive from the host controller a first packet including agent identification information, a transfer indicator indicating that data needs to be transferred between the host controller and the

first hub controller, during the first transaction at the first time, and to transfer a data packet between the first hub controller and the host controller, during the first transaction at the first time.

37. (Original) The system of claim 36, wherein the first hub controller is adapted to send to the host controller at least one of an acknowledgment or a handshake indication during the first transaction at the first time.

38. (Original) The system of claim 36, wherein the data packet may be transferred from the host controller to the first hub controller.

39. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 44, wherein the first hub controller is adapted to receive from the host controller a first packet including agent identification information and a transfer indicator indicating that data needs to be transferred between the first hub controller and the host controller, during the first transaction at the second time, and to transfer a data packet between the first hub controller and the host controller during the first transaction at the second time.

40. (Original) The system of claim 39, wherein the first hub controller is adapted to send to the host controller at least one of an acknowledgment or a handshake indication.

41. (Original) The system of claim 39, wherein the data packet may be transferred from the host controller to the first hub controller.

42. (Previously Presented) A method for communicating data between a host and an agent, the method comprising:

performing a first transaction at a first time between a host controller and a hub, said first transaction initiated by said host controller;

performing a second transaction between the hub and an agent based on the first transaction at the first time; and

repeating, by the host controller, the first transaction at a second time between the host controller and the hub.

43. (Previously Presented) A digital system comprising:

a host controller;

a device driver adapted to operate the host controller to initiate and perform a first transaction at a first time between the host controller and a hub and to initiate and repeat the first transaction at a second time between the host controller and the hub;

wherein the hub is adapted to perform a second transaction with an agent based upon the first transaction at the first time; and

wherein the first transaction at the second time is repeated after the second transaction.

44. (Previously Presented) A digital system comprising:

a first hub controller adapted to initiate and perform a first transaction at a first time with a host controller and to initiate and perform the first transaction at a second time with the host controller;

a second hub controller coupled to the first hub controller and adapted to perform a second transaction with an agent based upon the first transaction at the first time; and

wherein the first transaction at the second time is performed after the second transaction.

9. EVIDENCE APPENDIX

No further evidence has been submitted with this Appeal Brief.

10. RELATED PROCEEDINGS APPENDIX

Per Section 2 above, there are no related proceedings to the present Appeal.